red eye
Tuesday
JULY 3, 2012
★ FREE ★
A Chicago Tribune publication

PAIN IN THE RENT

Happy Fourth! We're off Wednesday

PAY MORE!

CALL IN THE SEARCH PARTY: IF YOU'VE SET YOUR SIGHTS ON A TRENDY 'HOOD, GET READY TO PAY *PAGES 6-7*



LESS SPACE!

HIGH RENTS!

Fourth of July will be hot as ... *3*
Beer pong fit for a king *8*
Breaking news: Anderson's gay *10*

BY JULIA BORCHERTS, FOR REDEYE | REDEYE@TRIBUNE.COM » GET MORE EAT. DRINK. DO. IDEAS AT REDEYECHICAGO.COM



DRINK

CITRUS FOR GROWN-UPS
SmallBar
2049 W. Division St. 773-772-2727

See what summer tastes like with mixologist Craig Hiljus' new cocktails including a Pineapple Express (bourbon, fresh muddled pineapple, dry vermouth, rosemary syrup and lemon bitters; $10) or a Classic-ish Paloma (tequila, fresh lime and grapefruit, sea salt and grapefruit soda; $9). 11 a.m.-2 a.m.

EAT



BOILING POINT
Tavern on Rush
1031 N. Rush St. 312-664-9600

To celebrate Independence Day, this Gold Coast spot offers a Maine Lobster Boil on Tuesday and Wednesday that includes 1 1/2 pounds of lobster with sweet corn, baby red potatoes, corn bread, firecracker sauce, choice of two desserts—and, of course, a bib. 11 a.m.- 2 a.m. $55 plus tax and gratuity.

CHEAP CHILLS
Eggy's
333 E. Benton Place Suite 103
773-234-3449

It's been hotter than a $20 iPad out there, but you can cool off for next to nothing with a stop at this Streeterville retro-modern diner for a 25-cent ice cream cone in your choice of chocolate, vanilla, strawberry or cookies and cream. 7:30 a.m.-9 p.m.

DO



GET YOUR LIT ON
Hungry Brain
2319 W. Belmont Ave. 773-709-1401

On Tuesday, the monthly Two Cookie Minimum reading series doubles as a release party for the new online issue of the Toucan Literary Magazine. Settle in for stories by contributors Greg Baldino, T.W. Townsend, Nikki Dolson and others, plus music by Kat Kidwell. Then meet the writers, editors and host Johnny Misfit over free cookies. 9 p.m.

BARRIO BLUES
Victory Gardens Theater
2433 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-871-3000

What does it mean to be an American? L.A. playwright Luis Alfaro explores that question in "Oedipus el Rey," a sexy, modern reboot of the ancient Greek tragedy in which a Latino ex-con attempts to become the king of Los Angeles gangland. 7:30 p.m. $35.

REDEYE TIP OF THE DAY Making last-minute festival, fireworks and parade plans? Check the **Fourth of July** guide on **metromix.com**.

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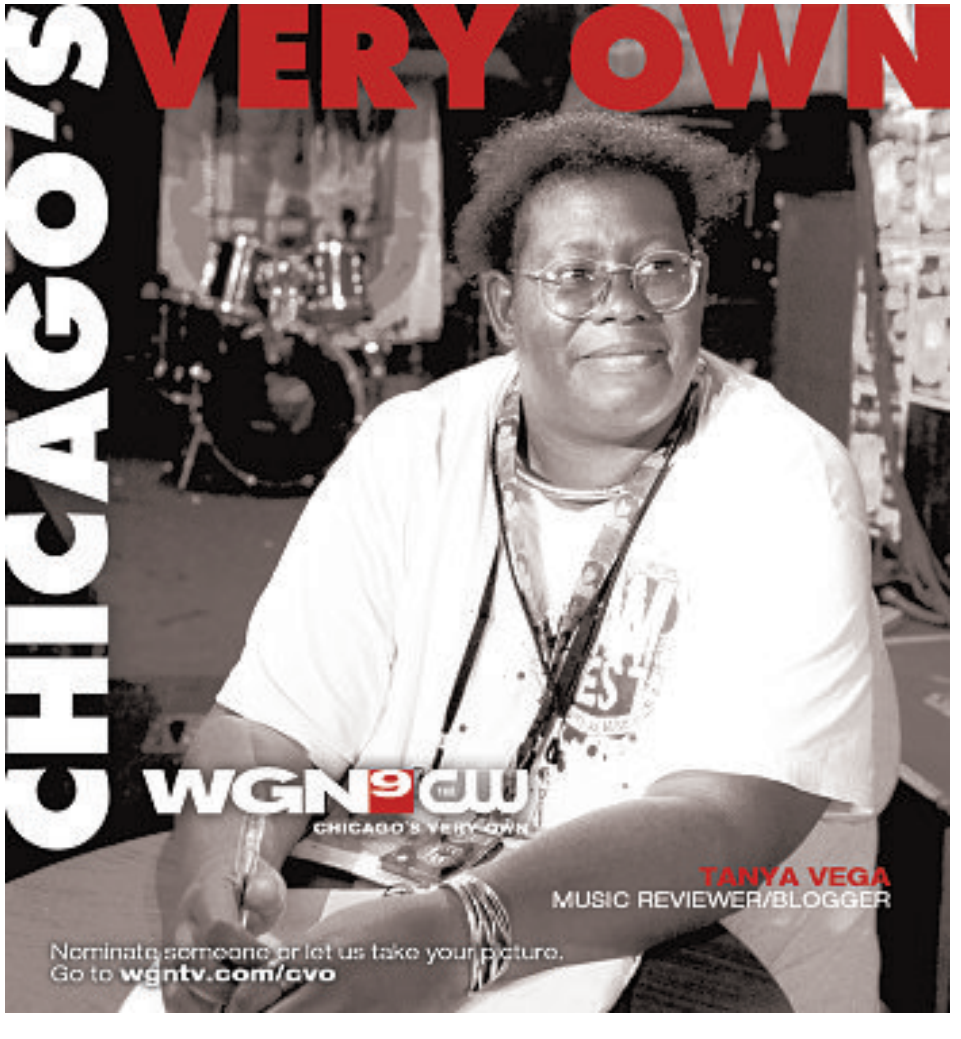


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Aziz Taylor plays in a fountain Monday in the Capital Heights neighborhood of Washington, D.C. REUTERS

Storm troopers

States from Midwest to East Coast roasting in heat wave

Reuters

Relentless heat was forecast for much of the eastern U.S. for a fourth straight day Monday, after violent storms killed at least 15 people and knocked out power to more than 3 million customers.

"Hot and hotter will continue to be the story from the Plains to the Atlantic Coast for the next few days," the National Weather Service said.

Emergencies were declared in Maryland, Ohio, Virginia, West Virginia and Washington, D.C., during the weekend because of damage from storms that unleashed hurricane-force winds across a 500-mile stretch of the mid-Atlantic region.

Almost 2.4 million people from Illinois to Virginia still were without power Monday morning, with the biggest concentration of outages in the Washington, D.C., area.

The storms came as sweltering temperatures topped 100 in several southern cities, including Atlanta, where the mercury hit an all-time record of 106 degrees Saturday and reached 105 on Sunday.

One of the hardest hit cities was Charlotte, N.C., where the mercury reached 104 degrees Sunday.

From St. Louis, Mo., to Washington, D.C., temperatures were forecast to hit more all-time records Monday.

Excessive heat warnings and advisories continued Monday over much of the mid-Mississippi Valley and southern states, and temperatures were forecast to remain well above normal for a large portion of the U.S.

Strong to severe thunderstorms were possible across the southern mid-Atlantic region and north-central U.S., the National Weather Service said.

Thunderstorms and high winds battered eastern North Carolina on Sunday afternoon, leading to three more deaths on top of at least 12 caused by deadly storms in several states Saturday.

In Pitt County near Greenville, a man was killed when his shed fell on him as he tried to put his golf cart inside, David Glenn of the National Weather Service said.

A couple was killed in neighboring Beaufort County when a tree fell on their golf cart, he said.

More than 40 people were reported injured in Beaufort County and numerous homes were damaged in Pitt County, said Christy Wallace, spokeswoman for the Pitt County sheriff.

After power outages that affected some 15,000 customers, Greenville Utilities said Monday morning that all major outages had been repaired.



An uprooted tree caused damage to electrical lines and a home in Washington, D.C., after a violent storm swept through the area. GETTYIMAGES



Storm clouds move over the Northwest Suburbs on Sunday, as seen from the Illinois Tollway's Des Plaines Oasis. MICHAEL TERCHA/TRIBUNE

$1.3M CTA booze cruise



GOING PUBLIC
Tracy Swartz
» tswartz@tribune.com
» @tracyswartz

Riders have been seeing more Amstel Light and Tanqueray on the CTA lately—though alcohol is not allowed on the system.

Since the CTA board began allowing alcohol ads on trains and in stations in March, more than 5,300 displays with alcohol messages have popped up on the system, CTA spokesman Brian Steele said.

The messages, which include PSAs and ads for booze brands, have generated about $1.43 million, about 7 percent of the CTA's total advertising revenue this year, Steele said.

Amstel Light, in particular, seems to have tapped into the CTA market. GP has spotted Amstel Light placards on Red and Brown Line trains and signs at Loop stations. A marketing manager for Heineken, which manufactures Amstel Light, did not return a request for comment.

The CTA board ruled in March that alcohol-related advertising could not exceed 10 percent of the system's total advertising.

Previously, there was a 15-year ban on alcohol advertising on the trains and in the stations though CTA bus shelter advertising, which is run by global ad company JC Decaux.



But over the past few years, some of this bus shelter advertising has not just promoted alcohol, it has celebrated it. Absolut Vodka has been known for its garish advertising including putting fancy red chairs in a shelter to market its Absolut bloody mary cocktail.

One of the concerns raised during CTA board discussions in March was the audience for the rail ads. Alcohol advertising is not allowed at stations where underage student riders with reduced fare cards top 7.5 percent of total ridership.

The board also restricted alcohol advertising to stations between Montrose Avenue and Roosevelt Road and east of Ashland Avenue. Advertising also is allowed at the Sox-35th Red Line station and the 35th-Bronzeville-IIT Green Line station.

Which line is it anyway?

The CTA began introducing the new 5000-series rail cars with the aisle-facing seats on the Green Line on Sunday. The cars already are on the Pink Line. Some stations are served by both the Green and Pink lines. Because the new trains are not color-coded with the line color, make sure to check the train's signs so you don't get on the wrong train.

Don't 'pass' up the chance

The 49th Ward is seeking artists to create 20 murals in Rogers Park on CTA and Union Pacific underpasses. Send a resume and a picture of the proposed mural to **rogersparkmuralproject2012@gmail.com**. Applications are due July 16.

STATIONARY *A weekly dispatch from a CTA station of note*

This week: LaSalle Blue Line

When it comes to looks, the Blue Line subway stops are the CTA's ugliest stations. They are dark and dank. When it rains, puddles seem to stick around forever. The LaSalle Blue Line station is no exception. The one bright spot of the Loop station is the vintage photos of Chicago near the turnstiles. But like some other Blue Line stations, the LaSalle stop is not accessible for people with disabilities. Long and narrow escalators shuttle commuters to and from the platform. Last year, the Chicago Department of Transportation unveiled a $5.2 million "intermodal center" to provide easier connection between the Blue Line, the nearby Metra station and CTA buses. Now if only LaSalle Blue Line riders could have an easier connection to the platform.

Next up: Kedzie-Homan Blue Line

RAIL TALK



It's unbearably hot outside. Why are you waiting 20 minutes under an unforgiving sun for that bus? Save yourself the sweat and hassle by snagging one of these CTA tracker apps for your phone. Want more? The CTA doesn't make them, but it does list some at **transitchicago.com/apps**.



myTransit *iPhone*
If you depend mostly on CTA buses, this one's for you. You'll have to pay a few pennies and it tracks only buses, but it's absolutely reliable when you really need it to be. 99 cents.



BusBerry
BlackBerry
Besides visiting the mobile site for CTA's bus tracker, this is the only tracking app for the BlackBerry. And it's also only for buses. You might be better off using the mobile site for free instead of shelling out a few bucks, eh? $2.95.



Chicago Transit Tracker
iPhone, Android
Need both bus and train trackers? Try this one. The features are very limited, and the design is nothing much to look at. But for the low price of FREE, it's a trade-off. (There's also a $2.99 version for the Android that has more features.) FREE.

HopStop *iPhone, Android*
Good one for newbies, here. HopStop helps you with trip planning, finding nearby stations and stops and saves your "favorite" trips so you won't lose your way next time. FREE.

RedEye *iPhone, Android*
Yep, we're plugging our own app here. Why? Because it's really pretty great. The RedEye mobile app can find bus stops nearest your current location and also track them. The train tracker, we've been told, usually is a bit more dependable than other apps as well. FREE.



Sweet iPad

RedEye is now available on your iPad. It's everything you love about the newspaper and much more. Get expanded video, photo and audio features available only on the tablet. RedEye for iPad is published Monday through Friday for $1.99 per month.

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Reg. 9.99-24.99.
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★ WebID 670513.



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BLOG

Fine jewelry specials are only available at stores that carry fine jewelry. ➤REG. & ORIG. PRICES ARE OFFERING PRICES & SAVINGS MAY NOT BE BASED ON ACTUAL SALES. SOME ORIG. PRICES NOT IN EFFECT DURING THE PAST 90 DAYS. JULY 4TH SALE PRICES IN EFFECT 6/28-7/4/2012. *Intermediate price reductions may have been taken. ‡All carat weights (ct. t.w.) are approximate; variance may be .05 carat. Jewelry photos may be enlarged or enhanced to show detail. Fine jewelry at select stores; log on to macys.com for locations. Almost all gemstones have been treated to enhance their beauty & require special care, log on to macys.com/gemstones or ask your sales professional. Advertised merchandise may not be carried at your local Macy's and selection may vary by store. Extra savings taken off already reduced prices, "special" prices reflect extra savings. Specials are available while supplies last. Prices & merchandise may differ at macys.com. Luggage & electric items carry mfrs' warranties; to see a mfr's warranty at no charge before purchasing, visit a store or write to: Macy's Warranty Dept., PO Box 1026 Maryland Heights, MO 63043, attn: Consumer Warranties. N2060004. ★Enter the WebID in the search box at macys.com to order.

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RENT THIS WAY

GLOOMY RENTAL OUTLOOK DOESN'T MEAN THERE AREN'T BARGAINS TO BE FOUND

WHERE IN THE U.S.A.?

Apartments.com and CareerBuilder recently ranked the best cities for recent college graduates. Rankings were based on data for unemployment, new hires, median starting salary and average rental prices. Chicago clocked in at No. 7. Here are the ratings and average rents for one-bedroom apartments in various cities. **K.K.**

1. **Washington, D.C.** *$1,696*
2. **New York** *$1,789*
3. **Boston** *$1,814*
4. **Minneapolis** *$974*
5. **Dallas** *$912*
6. **Atlanta** *$855*
7. **Chicago** *$1,224*
8. **Houston** *$910*
9. **Philadelphia** *$1,070*
10. **Baltimore** *$1,235*
11. **Denver** *$1,089*
12. **Salt Lake City** *$772*
13. **San Francisco** *$1,653*



GETTY IMAGES

By Kyle Kramer
FOR REDEYE

No, your paychecks haven't been getting smaller—and neither has your kitchen. If it seems like it's getting harder to find an affordable, spacious rental in Chicago, that's because it is.

Rents are up and vacancies are down as the economy continues to tread water.

Net rent prices increased 14 percent from 2005 to 2010—the latest data available. Meanwhile, about 40 percent of Cook County residents are renters, according to a 2011 study released by the DePaul University Institute for Housing Studies. The percentage of people renting is the highest it's been in a decade, said the institute's executive director, Geoff Smith.

"Either by choice or by circumstance, more people are choosing to rent," Smith said. "That's had the effect of increasing rents in the county and the city."

For some people, like Karl Hunsicker, 33, of Jefferson Park, enough is enough.

"I feel like renting is throwing money away," Hunsicker said. "The way the market's going, it's a good time to buy now." Hunsicker cited the high prices in popular neighborhoods such as Wicker Park, where he used to live, saying landlords there "can get away with charging more than it's worth."

Maurice Ortiz, marketing director at The Apartment People brokerage firm in Chicago, said now would be a good time to buy for anyone who is going to be in one place for at least five years.

"The prices are low, interest rates are historically low, the inventory is out there," he said. "You really can get an amazing deal if you're looking to buy right now."

But not everyone is in that situation financially. For people still looking to rent, Ortiz points to the neighborhoods surrounding trendier spots like Lakeview, Lincoln Park or Wicker Park/Bucktown as offering more availability and better values. Two he suggests are Logan Square and Lincoln Square.

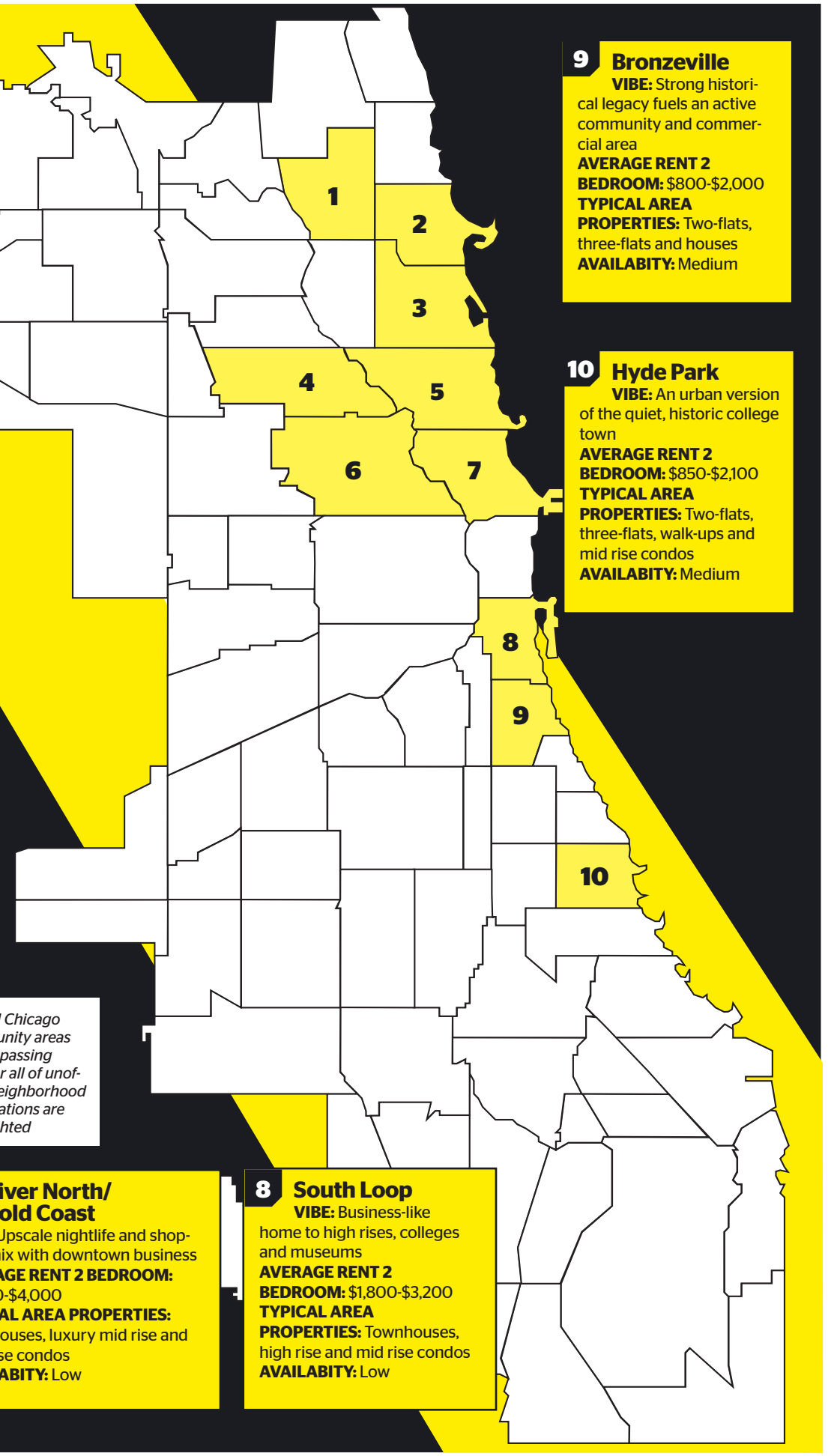
"You're still able to walk to some of the fun things to do [in adjacent neighborhoods] and yet pay a little bit less in rent," he said. And making this move, he explained, is becoming more common. "Because the rents are skyrocketing in just about all the neighborhoods, people are starting to move outward."

With that in mind, RedEye took a look at the rental picture in Chicago to find out which neighborhoods are hot—and how big of a dent they'll be putting in your wallet.

KYLE KRAMER IS A REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR.

PAINT BY 'HOOD

The rental picture ain't exactly pretty. Here's a rundown. K.K.



1 Lincoln Square/ Ravenswood

VIBE: Quiet, residential area with lived-in, small-town charm
AVERAGE RENT 2 BEDROOM: $1,000-$1,800
TYPICAL AREA PROPERTIES: Houses and three-flats
AVAILABITY: Low

2 Uptown/ Sheridan Park

VIBE: Diverse, engaged community with major entertainment destinations
AVERAGE RENT 2 BEDROOM: $950-$2,000
TYPICAL AREA PROPERTIES: Walk-ups, houses, three-flats and high rise condos
AVAILABITY: Medium

3 Lakeview/ Wrigleyville

VIBE: Gay-friendly and sports-friendly nightlife mix with families
AVERAGE RENT 2 BEDROOM: $1,300-$3,000
TYPICAL AREA PROPERTIES: Walk-ups, two-flats, three-flats, high rises
AVAILABITY: Very low

4 Logan Square

VIBE: Increasingly hip businesses and clientele add to lively family 'hood
AVERAGE RENT 2 BEDROOM: $900-$1,600
TYPICAL AREA PROPERTIES: Three-flats, walk-ups and houses
AVAILABITY: Medium

Official Chicago community areas encompassing parts or all of unofficial neighborhood designations are highlighted

5 Lincoln Park

VIBE: Boutique-y, park-heavy, lakeside convenience
AVERAGE RENT 2 BEDROOM: $1,600-$3,000
TYPICAL AREA PROPERTIES: Houses, condos, and luxury high rises
AVAILABITY: Very low

6 Wicker Park/ Bucktown

VIBE: A quirkier, artsier nightlife and shopping hub
AVERAGE RENT 2 BEDROOM: $1,250-$2,600
TYPICAL AREA PROPERTIES: Walk-ups, two-flats, three-flats, lofts
AVAILABITY: Low

7 River North/ Gold Coast

VIBE: Upscale nightlife and shopping mix with downtown business
AVERAGE RENT 2 BEDROOM: $2,000-$4,000
TYPICAL AREA PROPERTIES: Townhouses, luxury mid rise and high rise condos
AVAILABITY: Low

8 South Loop

VIBE: Business-like home to high rises, colleges and museums
AVERAGE RENT 2 BEDROOM: $1,800-$3,200
TYPICAL AREA PROPERTIES: Townhouses, high rise and mid rise condos
AVAILABITY: Low

9 Bronzeville

VIBE: Strong historical legacy fuels an active community and commercial area
AVERAGE RENT 2 BEDROOM: $800-$2,000
TYPICAL AREA PROPERTIES: Two-flats, three-flats and houses
AVAILABITY: Medium

10 Hyde Park

VIBE: An urban version of the quiet, historic college town
AVERAGE RENT 2 BEDROOM: $850-$2,100
TYPICAL AREA PROPERTIES: Two-flats, three-flats, walk-ups and mid rise condos
AVAILABITY: Medium

SOURCES: THE APARTMENT PEOPLE, CHICAGO APARTMENT FINDERS AND APARTMENTS.COM

chicago

TUESDAY 96/76 Stanky
WEDNESDAY 96/78 Happy 4th!
THURSDAY 98/77 Sizzler

FYI The city's internal watchdog concluded that Chicago lost roughly $320,000 because of poor scheduling of workers who boot cars.

For the beer pong aficionado

$800 for a luxury bar game? Local designer will drink to that

By Georgia Garvey
REDEYE

When you think of beer pong, some images and phrases probably come to mind: frat parties, sticky floors and next-day hangovers among them.

But luxury? High design?

If Joseph Mollo, a 22-year-old recent DePaul grad, has anything to say about it, that could be the new face of beer pong. Mollo, an entrepreneurship major at DePaul, designed a poplar-and-cast-iron beer pong table with a sleek curved surface and LED lights to highlight those red Solo cups.

"If I tell people I make an $800 beer pong table and I don't have a picture, they walk away laughing," Mollo said. But "once they see it, they change their minds."

Mollo now runs a company—along with partner and fellow DePaul graduate Daniel Manriquez—called Chippewa Five, which is devoted to selling the beer pong tables online. Count among the converts companies such as Zynga (which makes "Words With Friends") and Facebook, which along with two dozen-plus others, have purchased the table. Pazzo's Cucina Italiana in the Loop also has bought one of the high-design tables, Mollo said.

"Beer pong is growing in popularity. You see it on TV all the time," said Mollo, who lives in Burr Ridge. "It's growing, and I think this is a table it's going to grow with."

After years spent in college enjoying beer pong, Mollo—who comes from a family in the furniture industry—decided he wanted to elevate the game. He designed a table about a year ago that's visually simple but technically difficult to make, with curved wood and inlaid lighting. The dip in the middle of the table allows a complicated, skeeball-like shot in which the player rolls the ball along the dip so that it pops up into the cup.

"The design isn't purely aesthetic. It has function," he said. "It's a highly skilled shot. For the aficionado—someone who is really into beer pong—they are going to want this table."



Joseph Mollo, a 22-year-old recent DePaul grad, designed this poplar-and-cast-iron beer pong table with a sleek curved surface and LED lights to highlight those red Solo cups.

Right now the table is available only on the company's Facebook page and **etsy.com**, and Mollo is looking to get more tables into restaurants, bars and other spots in Chicago where people play beer pong.

He said he's hoping Chippewa Five, and the table he's designed, will change people's perceptions of beer pong, taking it out of dank basements and into elegant bars and well-designed homes.

"It's not your dining room table with a chandelier hanging in the middle of it," he said. "It draws people to it. Even if you don't know what beer pong is, you're going to want to find out."

GGARVEY@TRIBUNE.COM | @GCGARVEY

The more you know ...

Beer pong is typically played with two teams, beer in plastic cups, a pingpong ball and a table. Players try to toss pingpong balls into their opponents' cups of beer, forcing them to drink the contents of the cup. It's not exactly chess, but it's gained a passionate, devoted following and inspired beer pong leagues and tournaments. There's even a World Series of Beer Pong in Las Vegas.

"It was incredibly unfortunate. And I think it highlights the safety risk of leaving the building as it is."
—Erin Kupsco, West Ravenswood Neighbors Association member. A 16-year-old boy was fatally injured Monday after entering a vacant building at 1931 W. Wilson Ave. and falling two stories.



JOSE M. OSORIO/TRIBUNE

EXPRESS LINES

- Prosecutors confirmed for the first time Monday that three NATO protesters were caught on secret recordings as they allegedly plotted to use Molotov cocktails to blow up political targets during the recent summit in Chicago.
- A Chicago-based public interest law group that opposes same-sex marriage has filed a motion in Cook County Circuit Court asking to intervene and defend the state's marriage law against a pair of lawsuits filed in May.
- A handful of members from the United Taxidrivers Community Council declared victory during Monday morning's taxi strike to protest new regulations.
- Harpo Studios is leasing out the production offices that housed Rosie O'Donnell and her "Rosie Show" staff to an unnamed local digital media company beginning Aug. 1, according to OWN executives. TRIBUNE


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1 Keeping watch
A farmer carries bags past Pfc. Trent Pritchartt (left) and Spc. Ben Purvis during an early morning patrol Monday in Qandaro, Afghanistan. REUTERS



2 Fresh recruits
Sri Lankan cadets march in a ceremony for the graduation of 140 new army officers Monday in Diyatalawa. GETTY IMAGES



3 Hawk on
Rufus the hawk sits on Imogen Davis' hand Monday before play began at Wimbledon in London. The hawk, used to scare pigeons away, was returned Sunday after being stolen during the first week of the tournament. GETTY IMAGES

Anderson Cooper: 'Fact is, I'm gay'

4 **NEW YORK** Anderson Cooper said in a public statement Monday that he is gay, adding that while privacy is important for journalists, he did not want to give the impression he was hiding something and wanted to stand up against bullying.

"The fact is, I'm gay, always have been, always will be, and I couldn't be any more happy, comfortable with myself, and proud," the 45-year-old anchor of CNN's "Anderson Cooper 360" told The Daily Beast.

Cooper said in a statement posted on Andrew Sullivan's "The Dish" blog that he had not disclosed his sexual orientation in a memoir he wrote several years ago as that was focused on war, but he had come to realize he did not want to give "the mistaken impression that I am trying to hide something."

"There continue to be far too many incidences of bullying of young people, as well as discrimination and violence against people of all ages, based on their sexual orientation, and I believe there is value in making clear where I stand," he said.

Cooper, whose sexual identity has long been known within media circles, said he had always believed reporters' political, religious and love lives should not be something they have to discuss publicly. Cooper often travels to war zones and countries where homosexuality either is banned or frowned upon.

"I have always been very open and honest about this part of my life with my friends, my family, and my colleagues. In a perfect world, I don't think it's anyone else's business, but I do think there is value in standing up and being counted," he said.

He said he still hoped for some "personal space," but "I do think visibility is important."



Anderson Cooper
REUTERS

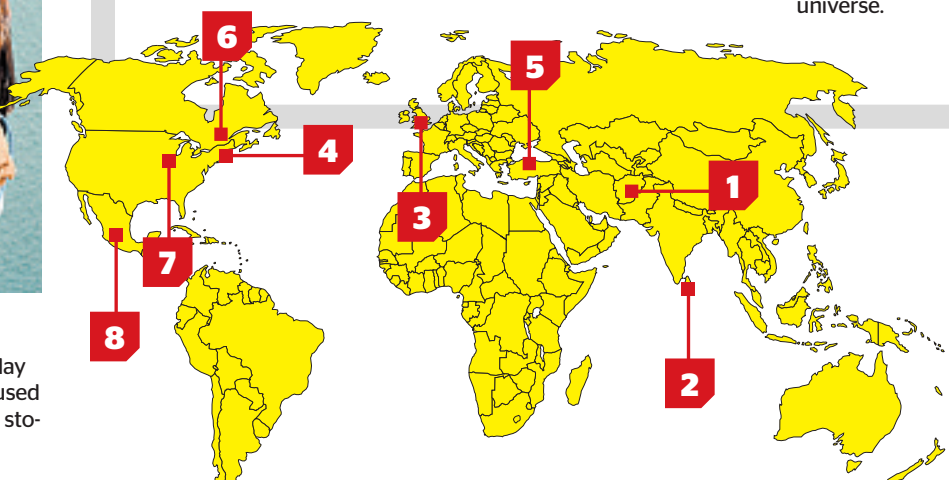
TIMELINE CONNECTION
Anderson Cooper wasn't the only person to come out Monday. Facebook rolled out new same-sex marriage icons, allowing users to declare wedlock with dual grooms or brides on their timelines.

5 Syria-Turkey tensions mount
Turkey scrambled six F-16 fighter jets in three separate incidents responding to Syrian military helicopters approaching the border Sunday, its armed forces command said Monday.

6 Possible remains found in park
Montreal police have found possible human remains in a local park, fueling speculation they could be those of Chinese student Jun Lin, the victim of one of Canada's most gruesome murders in recent memory.

7 Closer to 'God particle'?
Physicists at Fermi National Accelerator Lab said Monday that they have come tantalizingly close to proving the existence of the elusive subatomic Higgs boson—dubbed the "God particle" because it brings mass and order to the universe.

8 Mexican President-elect has big plans
Mexican President-elect Enrique Pena Nieto on Monday pledged to prioritize energy, labor and tax reforms and said he hopes to strike deals with opponents to help push some changes through Congress even before he takes office in December.



THE DIGIT

$3 billion

GlaxoSmithKline has agreed to plead guilty to criminal charges and pay $3 billion to settle the largest case of healthcare fraud in U.S. history. The settlement includes $1 billion in criminal fines and $2 billion in civil fines in connection with the sale of the drug company's Paxil, Wellbutrin and Avandia products.

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sports


CHRIS SWEDA/TRIBUNE FILE

If you add it...

6 ways to fix the NFL's attendance woes

RedEye

The good news for the NFL? More people are watching at home. The bad news? Fewer fans are attending games. According to the Wall Street Journal, league attendance is down 4.5 percent since 2007.

Among the enhancements the NFL is implementing this season: Fans in the stadium will be able to watch the same instant replays referees use to review controversial calls, the Journal said. In addition, the league plans to introduce wireless Internet in stadiums and create smartphone apps to allow fans to hear certain players on the field. The NFL shouldn't be too worried about Chicago, as Bears fans still fill Soldier Field at 101 percent capacity, fifth-best in the league, the Journal said. Still, far be it from RedEye to let the league solve this issue on its own. Maybe these ideas would come in handy.



1 Halftime/ postgame concerts

The tickets are so expensive, why not include bands to get the crowd worked up? RedEye thinks these Chicago performers are up to the task, for starters: Archie Powell and the Exports, JC Brooks and the Uptown Sound, The Congregation, Santiago x The Natural, and Patrick Stump.

2 Fireworks Start by consulting the White Sox, whose pyrotechnic displays are sometimes the best reason to visit U.S. Cellular Field. Then talk to them about getting the grass situation sorted out. Please.



4 Seat warmers

They're the next-best thing to a retractable roof at Soldier Field, no? It would mean carrying fewer blankets, at least.

3 Gatorade showers for fans

This could be a hit for bachelor parties. The groom-to-be would be waiting in line for a beer, then ... BAM! Julius Peppers comes out of nowhere and douses him. On second thought, use water instead. And bring towels.



5 Foodie frenzy

To appeal to foodies, teams could enlist top-tier chefs. Stephanie Izard, Rick Bayless, Grant Achatz and the like are bound to have delicious alternatives to typical stadium fare.

6 Vote on end-zone dances

This can be done "America's Got Talent"-style. If a contestant, er, player gets too many X's from the crowd, that touchdown celebration must be retired immediately.

THE STARTING LINE » Cubs at Atlanta, 6:10 p.m. CSN » White Sox vs. Texas, 7:10 p.m. CSN+ » Fire at Houston, 7:30 p.m. NBC Nonstop

Get back on board, Cubs fans



Alex Quigley
» redeyesports@tribune.com

The last time the Cubs played a truly meaningful game, Barack Obama was still a U.S. senator and the "Twilight" series existed only in book form. It's been a long, rough road through the unmet high expectations of 2009, the midseason quit job of 2010 and the general malaise of 2011.

But I believe the franchise may have hit rock bottom, and there's no way from there but up. If you've disengaged from regular Cubs fandom—and judging by sinking broadcast ratings and empty seats at Wrigley, you have—now is the time to make like Captain Picard. (Engage.)

The Cubs just took two of three from the playoff-contending N.Y. Mets and swept lowly Houston . That 5-1 home stand was the North Siders' best since a 6-1 run at the Friendly Confines in July 2009. That's almost three years since we've had a more Steve Goodman-filled week. (Yes, they still play "Go Cubs Go" after wins. They're not going to stop.)

Anthony Rizzo hit his first homer with the Cubs. A pitcher named Wood threw 14 2/3 scoreless innings, and it wasn't Kerry. The first 20,000 people at the ballpark got free shaving cream pies. Hell, it's July and Alfonso Soriano hasn't made an error in the outfield yet! Except for the lone loss, a 17-1 laugher, good times returned to Wrigley.

Don't get me wrong, this Cubs team will remain double-digit games out of first place for the remainder of 2012. They've dug a big hole because they've played a lot of bad baseball. They need better starting pitching. They need to get on base more frequently. It ain't about this season.

But why not 2013? With the new wild-card format, the Cubs will have a 1-in-3 shot at postseason play on Opening Day 2013. And Theo's crew has only $35 million committed to next year's payroll. Financial freedom for free agency: Now there are some F-words we *haven't* heard to describe the Cubs lately.

If you've been waiting for signs of life from this franchise, I've got one more F-word for this team: finally.

ALEX QUIGLEY IS A REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR.

txtable

NEWBIES

WGN's Frank Holland joins the panel today, and Scott's mom made him go to his room. Vote by texting "tue" followed by the number next to your fave to 87708.



Scott Bolohan's mom
@scottbolohan
Changed Scott's diapers
TEXT: 1



Clark Jones
@theclarkjones
Stand-up comic
TEXT: 2



Frank Holland
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WGN Morning News
TEXT: 3



John Dooley
@chicagotough
chicagonow.com/chicago-tough
TEXT: 4



Angi Taylor
@AngiTaylor
KISS
103.5 KISS-FM
TEXT: 5

1 Welcome Sheldon Brookbank to the Blackhawks.	"Hey, Sheldon! Here's a big, booming welcome to the best Blackhawk named Brookbank ever."	"Welcome to Chicago, Sheldon! Ignore any drunken misfits—that's just Patrick Kane."	"Welcome to Chicago. The winters are much nicer here."	"No. 1 rule when playing for the Hawks: Don't touch Q's stache. Rule No. 2: See Rule No. 1."	"Oh, you're a scrapper? You've come to the right place!"
2 What's the biggest priority for the Bulls in free agency?	Get someone good.	Try to not laugh so hard at the $24 million Houston is giving Omer Asik.	Giving Brian Scalabrine a long-term deal. "White Mamba" is the only good nickname on the team.	Get over the tragic loss of Omer Asik. Somehow. Some way.	Maybe they can sign Sheldon Brookbank to protect D-Rose on the court?
3 Make a sports prediction for July.	Some teams will win. Some teams will lose.	America will pay attention to about .003 percent of the Olympic Trials.	At least 11 Europeans and one American wearing hipster glasses will get trampled in the Running of the Bulls.	Bayside High finally gets basketball court expansion, boldly moving its court size from 25 feet to 94 feet.	Michael Phelps' bong won't make it through security in London.
4 What would you do with Dwight Howard's trade request?	You have to answer it. It is not polite to ignore a request.	Handle it like Mayor Emanuel's office deals with requests: Ignore it until it's too late.	Respond via Friendster. He's that out of touch. Then trade "Superman" to the "fortress of ineptitude," aka the Bobcats.	I'd accept it. Then I'd preemptively fire my coach and GM to make him happy.	Wait a week ... he'll change his mind again. (Nervously takes a swig of Pepsi.)
5 What's the worst part about playing a baseball game in extreme heat?	It gets really hot and your mother worries about you getting dehydrated.	Extreme heat and 7-Eleven hot dogs do. not. mix.	No A/C in the dugout, and the beer gets warm if you are in Boston.	The slow stripping-down of the inevitable Rod Beck look-alike.	Sweaty balls?

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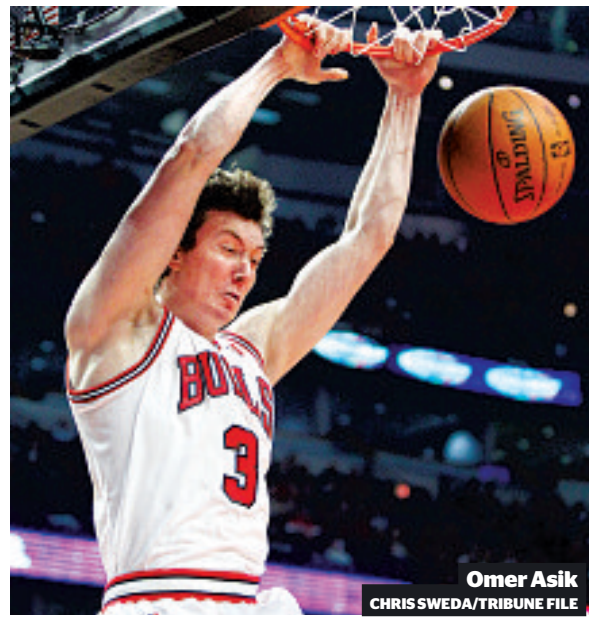
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Your move, Bulls



Omer Asik
CHRIS SWEDA/TRIBUNE FILE

General manager Gar Forman has said that re-signing Omer Asik is one of the Bulls' off-season priorities. Houston plans to test that mettle, verbally agreeing to a three-year offer sheet worth $24.2 million once the free-agent moratorium ends July 11. The Bulls will have three days to match the offer.

"We've made it clear we value Omer and it's been our goal that Omer would stay with the Bulls," Forman said. "I'm not going to talk about any type of negotiation or anything contractually until we see something."

So, is $8 million a year the going rate for a backup center? We guess we'll find out in a few weeks.

Cue the angry emails

Blackhawks fans won't like this. Not one bit.

NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman ruled Monday that Phoenix's Raffi Torres, who was suspended for his illegal hit on Marian Hossa during the playoffs, would be suspended 21 games. That's down from the 25 handed down by league disciplinarian Brendan Shanahan.

The new suspension means Torres will sit out the first eight games of the 2012-13 season.

Resorting to bribery, eh, Sox?

To get pitcher Jake Peavy to the All-Star Game, the White Sox are offering fans a chance to win prizes if they participate in the #TakeJake campaign in the 2012 MLB Final Vote.

Every person who has voted for Peavy automatically will be entered into the 2012 Vote Jake Peavy All-Star game Final Vote sweepstakes. Five winners chosen will receive a Jake Peavy autographed prize pack (that includes a jersey, cap and ball), and an additional five winners will receive four game tickets and a parking pass to a Sox home game.

Fans can vote at **whitesox.com** and **mlb.com/vote** or by texting **A5** to **89269**. The voting ends at 3 p.m. Thursday.

THE DIGIT

15,000

That's how many tweets per second were sent when Spain scored its fourth goal in the Euro 2012 final Sunday, a record for a sports-related event.



THE MOUTHWATCH

"If he felt that bad, he would have put me on the team, so he couldn't feel that bad."

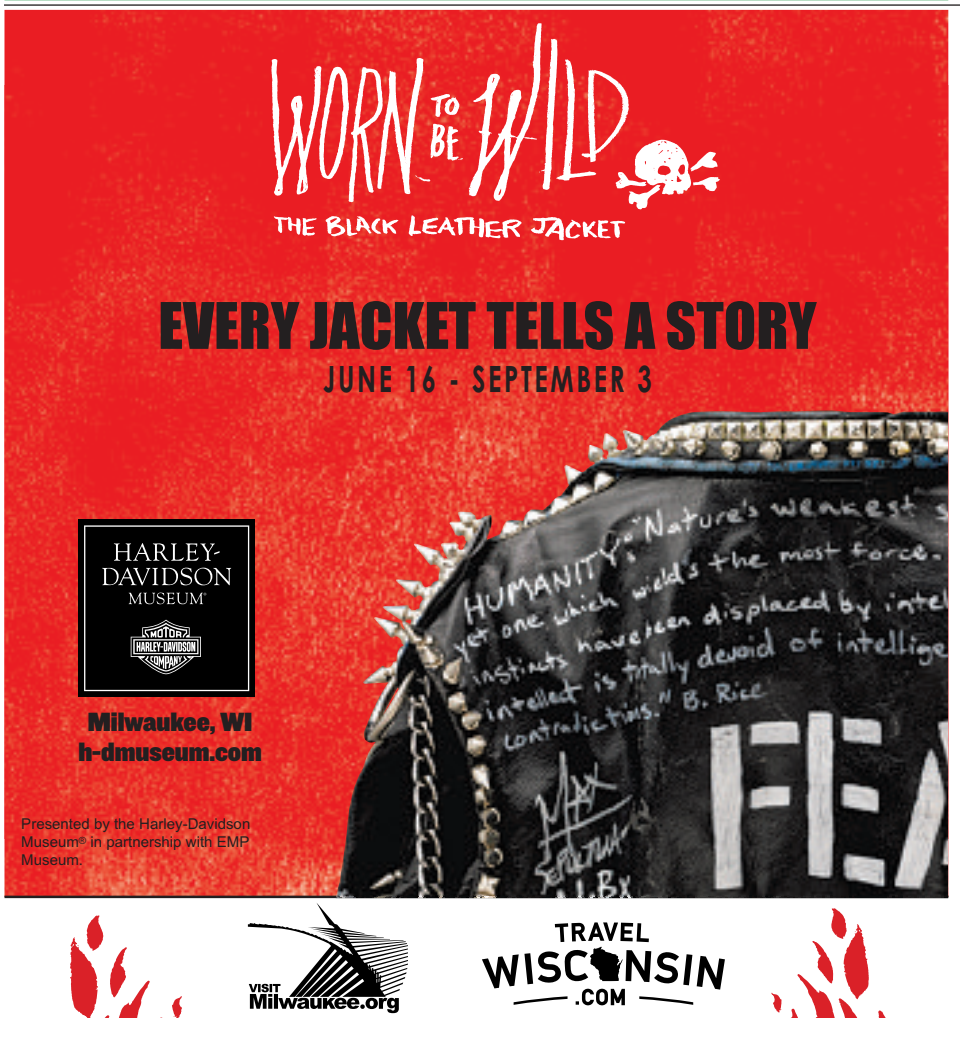
—**A.J. Pierzynski**, on AL All-Star manager Ron Washington denying a the White Sox catcher a spot on the team

THE FINISH LINE

» Cubs 4, Atlanta 1 » Serena Williams, Roger Federer advance at Wimbledon; Maria Sharapova upset


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music

Fame & fortune

ALBUM REVIEW



Fortune
Chris Brown

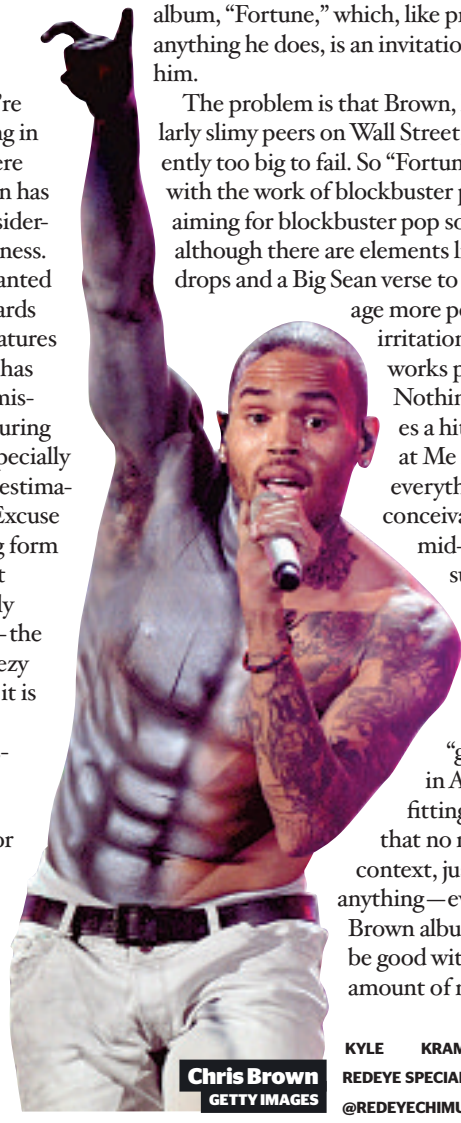


By Kyle Kramer
FOR REDEYE

As far as most of the music industry is concerned, it seems we're already living in a world where Chris Brown has earned considerable forgiveness. By being granted coveted awards show performance slots and guest features with Rihanna (of all people!), Brown has been implicitly excused for his past mistakes and violent behavior. Sure, enduring an entire society's public hatred—especially when you've done that society the inestimable service of making the song "Yo (Excuse Me Miss)"—remains its own nagging form of punishment. Yet Brown's apparent determination to remain a completely insufferable personality means that—the attitudes of his 10 million #teambreezy Twitter followers notwithstanding—it is hard to root for his career.

Unfortunately, to answer the pressing question, unlikeable people are absolutely capable of making good music. Brown's enormous capacity for sucking personally does not change the fact that he's made a half-dozen of the past decade's best pop songs, although it does make newer attempts at injecting personality or romance into a song feel icky. At this point, few things are more depressing than imagining Brown having sex, except maybe imagining Brown having sex while repeating the disturbing mantra, "You better not change your mind." This happens on his latest album, "Fortune," which, like pretty much anything he does, is an invitation to dislike him.

The problem is that Brown, like his similarly slimy peers on Wall Street, is apparently too big to fail. So "Fortune" is laced with the work of blockbuster producers aiming for blockbuster pop songs, and, although there are elements like dubstep drops and a Big Sean verse to encourage more potential irritation, it actually works pretty well. Nothing approaches a hit like "Look at Me Now," but everything could conceivably be a mid-tier radio success. On "Mirage," Nas delivers a guest verse that mentions "good sushi in Aspen," a fitting reminder that no matter the context, just about anything—even a Chris Brown album—can be good with the right amount of money.


Chris Brown
GETTY IMAGES

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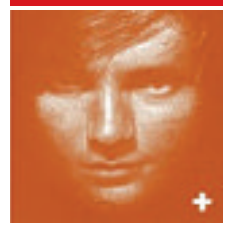
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music

ALBUM REVIEW

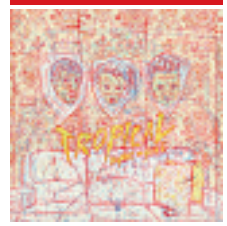


Ed Sheeran
"+"

Slick-soul songsmith Ed Sheeran's sound is folksy, with a good helping of soul man (young soul man: he's 21); heart is worn on sleeve in many lyrics. In a voice like a baby Boz Scaggs and/or a mushy Damien Rice, Sheeran riffs to his peer group about computer games, "Shrek" and couch surfing. Some of his debut, "+" (as in "Plus"), features big-dumb-kid stuff like the treacle of "Kiss Me." Mostly though, "+" highlights the very best R&B elements of the boy band craze from the '60s through the present (Sheeran wrote or cowrote tunes on "Up All Night," the 2011 smash album by U.K. boy gods "One Direction") with the likes of "Grade 8" and "The City" oozing new jack swing, to say nothing of its airy, contagious choruses. Better still, if that's possible, is the heartbreak beat of "The A Team," with Sheeran's effortless crooning. Swoon.

A.D. AMOROSI, THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

ALBUM REVIEW



Tropical/ Bacanal
Bonde Do Rolé

Brazilian baile-funk trio Bonde do Rolé very nearly tore down the stage of Philadelphia's Mummers Museum way back in '06 at the launch party for Diplo's Mad Decent records. Back then, the smart money might have bet the electro-pop party monsters' fiery go-go-go gusto wasn't sustainable. But on new album "Tropical/ Bacanal," you'll find they're still burning the candle at both ends, colliding a diverse array of influences in a messy, Latin-kissed mishmash. Guitar-plucky tracks like "Kilo" and "Banana Woman" have an almost spaghetti-Western feel, but somehow they flow well next to the Santigold-sounding "Bang" (featuring Das Racist) and the fast-paced, accordion-spiked "Kanye." All will get the party started. But fair warning: That party doesn't end.

BRIAN MCMANUS, THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER



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John Barleycorn johnbarleycorn.com

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July 3 Summer Bash

$3 domestic bottles
$5 4 Rebels cocktails

July 4th BBQ

$12 bottomless buffet 1-6 p.m.
$18 Bud Light buckets & $5 Rebel Palmers all day



WRIGLEYVILLE

Independence Eve Party

$5 domestic bottles & $7 Sangria Royales

DJs spin 10 p.m.



moe's cantina moescantina.com





RIVER NORTH

July 4 Pre-Party

$5 domestics & $6 imports
Check out our new summer cocktail list

DJs spin 10 p.m.

Open July 4 at 4 p.m.

$4 Bud & Bud Lights & $5 4 Rebels cocktails

WRIGLEYVILLE

July 3 Bash

$5 domestics & $6 imports
DJs spin 10 p.m.

OpenTable

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G - General audience PG - Parental guidance suggested R - Restricted, under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian PG-13 - Parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13

600 N. MICHIGAN (AMC)
600 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago
888-AMC-4FUN
Show times change daily ♿
■**Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter 3D** (R) 10:00, 3:15, 8:15, 10:45
■**Snow White and the Huntsman** (PG-13) Đ 10:30, 1:20, 4:15, 7:10, 10:00
■**Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter** (R) Đ 12:30
■**Ted** (R) ★ Đ 9:40, 12:10, 2:45, 5:20, 8:00, 10:40
■**People Like Us** (PG-13) ★ Đ 10:45, 1:40, 4:25, 7:20, 10:05
■**Magic Mike** (R) ★ Đ 11:10, 2:00, 4:45, 7:30, 10:25
■**Tyler Perry's Madea's Witness Protection** (PG-13) ★ Đ 11:25, 2:15, 5:00, 7:55, 10:35
■**Brave 3D** (PG) 1:00, 5:45, 10:50
■**The Amazing Spider-Man** (PG-13) ★ Đ 9:50, 12:40, 3:45, 7:00, 10:15
■**The Amazing Spider-Man 3D** (PG-13) ★ 10:20, 1:30, 4:35, 7:45, 9:20
■**Brave** (PG) Đ 10:10, 3:30, 6:40

LANDMARK CENTURY CENTRE CINEMA (LANDMARK)
2828 North Clark St., Chicago
(773) 509-4949
■**To Rome With Love** (R) 1:00, 2:00, 3:45, 4:45, 6:45, 7:45, 9:45
■**The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel** (PG-13) 1:55, 4:45, 8:00
■**Bernie** (PG-13) 1:45, 4:00
■**Moonrise Kingdom** (PG-13) 1:15, 4:00, 6:30, 7:30, 9:00, 9:55
■**Your Sister's Sister** (R) 1:30, 4:15, 7:20, 9:40
■**The Intouchables** (R) 1:45, 4:35, 7:15, 9:50

CITY NORTH 14 (REGAL)
2600 N. Western Ave.
(800) 326-3264 #1642
■**The Amazing Spider-Man 3D** (PG-13) ★ (Closed caption) 10:00, 11:00, 1:10, 2:10, 4:20, 5:20, 7:30, 8:30, 11:00, 12:00
■**The Amazing Spider-Man** (PG-13) ★ 11:40, 12:40, 2:50, 3:20, 3:50, 6:00, 6:30, 7:00, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30
■**The Amazing Spider-Man 3D** (PG-13) ★ (Closed caption) 10:30, 1:40, 4:50, 8:00, 11:30

DAVIS THEATRE (VALUE)
4614 N. Lincoln Ave., Chicago
(773) 784-0893
■**Ted** (R) ★ 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:40, 10:00
■**Brave** (PG) ★ 12:10, 2:30, 5:00, 7:10, 9:30
■**Prometheus** (R) 12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15
■**The Amazing Spider-Man** (PG-13) ★ 11:30, 2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10:10
■**Despicable Me** (PG) 10:00

FORD CITY 14 (AMC)
S. Cicero at 76th., Chicago
888-AMC-4FUN
Show times change daily
■**Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter** (R) Đ 11:25, 2:10, 4:55, 7:40, 10:15
■**Ted** (R) Đ 11:15, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00
■**People Like Us** (PG-13) Đ 11:00, 1:40, 4:25, 7:10, 10:05
■**Magic Mike** (R) Đ 11:35, 2:15, 5:05, 7:45, 10:30
■**Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted** (PG) Đ 11:15, 1:35, 3:55, 6:40, 9:15
■**Tyler Perry's Madea's Witness Protection** (PG-13) Đ 11:00, 11:35, 1:40, 2:15, 4:30, 5:10, 7:15, 7:50, 10:00, 10:30
■**Brave 3D** (PG) 11:05, 1:30, 3:55, 6:30, 9:00
■**Marvel's the Avengers** (PG-13) Đ 1:55, 7:30
■**The Amazing Spider-Man** (PG-13) Đ 10:30, 12:45, 1:45, 5:00, 7:00, 8:15, 10:15
■**Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted 3D** (PG) 12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:40, 10:10
■**The Amazing Spider-Man 3D** (PG-13) 11:30, 2:45, 3:50, 6:30, 9:30
■**Brave** (PG) Đ 11:45, 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:40
■**Men in Black 3** (PG-13) Đ 11:20, 5:00, 10:30

GENE SISKEL FILM CENTER
164 State Street
(312) 846-2800
■**Never Stand Still** (NR) 6:00
■**Grand Illusion** (NR) 8:00
■**Paul Williams Still Alive** (PG-13) 8:15
■**My Neighbors the Yamadas** (PG) 6:00

LOGAN THEATRE
2646 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago
(773) 252-0628
■**Men in Black 3** (PG-13) 12:15, 2:30, 4:35, 6:40, 8:45, 10:50
■**Marvel's the Avengers** (PG-13) 11:50, 2:35, 5:20, 8:05, 10:50
■**Dark Shadows** (PG-13) 5:30, 10:30
■**Snow White and the Huntsman** (PG-13) 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
■**The Hunger Games** (PG-13) 2:40, 7:50

MUSIC BOX
3733 N. Southport, Chicago
(773) 871-6604
■**The Graduate** (PG) 4:30, 9:30
■**Last Ride** (NR) 7:00
■**The Invisible War** (NR) 5:15, 7:30, 9:45

THE PATIO THEATER
6008 W. Irving Park Road
(773) 685-4291

RIVER EAST 21 (AMC)
322 E. Illinois Street, Chicago
888-AMC-4FUN
Show times change daily
■**Ted** (R) ★ Đ 11:00, 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:20
■**Rock of Ages** (PG-13) Đ 12:00
■**People Like Us** (PG-13) Đ 11:10, 2:05, 4:55, 7:45, 10:40
■**Magic Mike** (R) Đ 11:40, 2:30, 5:20, 8:10, 11:00
■**Tyler Perry's Madea's Witness Protection** (PG-13) Đ 10:00, 1:10, 4:00, 7:00, 10:10
■**The Amazing Spider-Man** (PG-13) ★ Đ 10:35, 12:35, 2:00, 3:50, 5:10, 7:15, 8:45, 10:45
■**The Amazing Spider-Man 3D** (PG-13) ★ 9:30, 11:45, 1:00, 3:15, 4:30, 6:45, 8:00, 10:00, 11:30

SHOWPLACE VILLAGE CROSSING (AMC)
7000 Carpenter Rd., Chicago
(800) 326-3264 #2309
■**Rock of Ages** (PG-13) Đ 12:00
■**The Amazing Spider-Man: An IMAX 3D Experience** (PG-13) ★ 12:40, 4:05, 7:30, 10:55
■**The Amazing Spider-Man** (PG-13) ★ Đ 10:05, 11:45, 1:30, 3:10, 4:55, 6:35, 8:20, 10:00, 11:45
■**The Amazing Spider-Man 3D** (PG-13) ★ 10:55, 2:20, 5:45, 9:10

WEBSTER PLACE 11 (REGAL)
1471 W. Webster Ave., Chicago
(800) 326-3264 #1641
■**The Amazing Spider-Man 3D** (PG-13) ★ 12:15, 3:30, 7:00, 10:30
■**The Dark Knight Rises** (PG-13) ★

SHOWPLACE GALEWOOD 14 (AMC)
E. Side of Central Ave., just S. of Grand Ave., Chicago
(800) 326-3264 #1646
■**Snow White and the Huntsman** (PG-13) Đ 11:35, 5:25, 11:00
■**Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter** (R) Đ 10:55, 1:40, 4:25, 7:10, 9:45
■**That's My Boy** (R) Đ 10:35, 1:30, 4:25, 10:05
■**Ted** (R) ★ Đ 11:40, 2:25, 5:10, 7:55, 10:45
■**People Like Us** (PG-13) ★ Đ 10:30, 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30
■**Magic Mike** (R) ★ Đ 10:15, 1:15, 4:05, 7:00, 10:00
■**Seeking a Friend for the End of the World** (R) ★ Đ 7:20
■**Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted** (PG) Đ 11:30, 2:15, 4:50, 7:25, 9:55
■**Tyler Perry's Madea's Witness Protection** (PG-13) ★ Đ 10:30, 11:15, 1:25, 2:10, 4:20, 5:05, 7:15, 8:00, 10:15, 11:00
■**Brave 3D** (PG) 10:40, 1:20, 4:00, 6:45, 9:25
■**The Amazing Spider-Man** (PG-13) ★ Đ 11:45, 12:45, 3:00, 6:15, 7:15, 9:30
■**The Amazing Spider-Man 3D** (PG-13) ★ 10:25, 1:45, 4:00, 5:00, 8:15, 10:30, 11:30
■**Brave** (PG) Đ 11:40, 2:20, 5:00, 7:45, 10:25
■**Men in Black 3** (PG-13) Đ 2:40, 8:30

SHOWPLACE CICERO 14 (AMC)
4779 W. Cermak., Cicero
(800) 326-3264 #1644
■**Ted** (R) Đ 11:50, 2:30, 5:15, 8:00, 10:45
■**People Like Us** (PG-13) ★ Đ 10:50, 1:40, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30
■**Magic Mike** (R) ★ Đ 11:15, 2:00, 4:50, 7:45, 10:40
■**Tyler Perry's Madea's Witness Protection** (PG-13) ★ Đ 10:15, 1:20, 4:15, 7:00, 10:00
■**The Amazing Spider-Man 3D** (PG-13) ★ 10:00, 1:15, 4:40, 8:00, 11:20

SHOWPLACE ICON AT ROOSEVELT COLLECTION
Clark & Roosevelt, South Loop, Chicago
(312) 564-2104
■**The Amazing Spider-Man 3D** (PG-13) ★ 2:45, 6:00, 9:15, 12:30
■**The Amazing Spider-Man** (PG-13) ★ 1:30, 4:45, 8:00, 11:15
■**Tyler Perry's Madea's Witness Protection** (PG-13) ★ 1:40, 4:40, 7:40, 10:40
VIP Premium 21+
■**The Amazing Spider-Man 3D** (PG-13) ★ VIP Premium 21+ 2:45, 6:00, 9:15, 12:30

OAK PARK

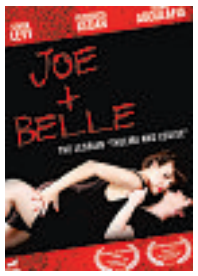
LAKE CINEMAS (CLASSIC)
1022 Lake Street, Oak Park
(630) 444-FILM #560
■**Ted** (R) ★ 12:00, 2:25, 4:50, 7:15, 9:40
■**Moonrise Kingdom** (PG-13) ★ 12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 9:10
■**Monsieur Lazhar** (PG-13) 12:00, 7:00
■**People Like Us** (PG-13) ★ 1:00, 3:45, 7:00, 9:30
■**Magic Mike** (R) ★ 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50
■**Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted** (PG) 2:10, 4:20, 6:30, 8:40
■**Brave 3D** (PG) ★ 12:00, 2:15, 6:45, 9:00
■**The Amazing Spider-Man** (PG-13) ★ 11:00, 4:40
■**The Amazing Spider-Man 3D** (PG-13) ★ 1:50, 7:30, 10:20
■**Brave** (PG) ★ 4:30

EVANSTON

CENTURY 12/CINEARTS 6 (CENTURY)
1715 Maple Ave., Evanston
(847) 492-0123 ♿
■**The Amazing Spider-Man 3D** (PG-13) 12:40, 3:50, 7:00, 10:10

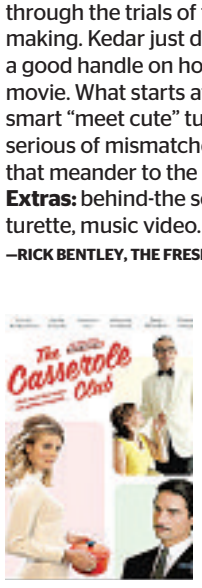
NEW ON DVD

The DVD pickings—maybe a result of the July 4 holiday—are thin this week.



Joe + Belle

The dark comedy from writer/director Veronica Kedar starts with great promise when two women accidentally kill someone and struggle to get rid of the body. The two women—Joe (Kedar), a drug dealer, and Belle (Sivan Levy), a suicidal mental patient—are different but share enough similar angst that they make a compelling pair. Their relationship slowly grows through the trials of their own making. Kedar just doesn't have a good handle on how to end the movie. What starts at as a very smart "meet cute" turns into a serious of mismatched moments that meander to the end.
Extras: behind-the scenes featurette, music video.
—RICK BENTLEY, THE FRESNO BEE



The Casserole Club

A weekly get together in 1960s suburbia to compare recipes turns into a sexual foray sparked by booze and drugs. Each member of the group brings his own secrets to the event which play out as the group plays around. Everything about this film is clunky, from the choppy way it was filmed to the acting. Even the attempts to portray the rabid sexuality of the time comes across like a lovemaking Mad Libs. The only saving grace is former Backstreet Boys member Kevin Richardson. His performance as a twisted and broken member of the dinner-and-debauchery group is the only one that shows any acting skills. Too bad he's surrounded by the march of the wooden players.
Extras: Full-length doc "Camp Casserole," making of featurette.
—RICK BENTLEY, THE FRESNO BEE







God Bless America

The latest writing and directing effort by stand-up comic Bobcat Goldthwait stars Joel Murray as Frank, a divorced guy who despairs over all the horrors he sees on reality TV, including thinly disguised variations of "American Idol" and "My Super Sweet 16." As his own life falls into a deeper pit, Frank decides his best course is to kill the star of a reality show. In Goldthwait's script and Murray's performance, Frank is not so much a man with a mission as someone who is reacting to the world around him one offense at a time. He gains a broader focus when joined by a youngster, Roxy (Tara Lynne Barr), who shares his hatred of society's failings. The movie is often entertaining, and its renditions of reality TV are dead-on. Murray and Barr work well together.
Extras: A behind-the-scenes piece, deleted and extended scenes; interviews with Goldthwait, Murray and Barr; and audio commentary by them. —RICH HELDENFELS, AKRON BEACON JOURNAL





Born on the Fourth of July

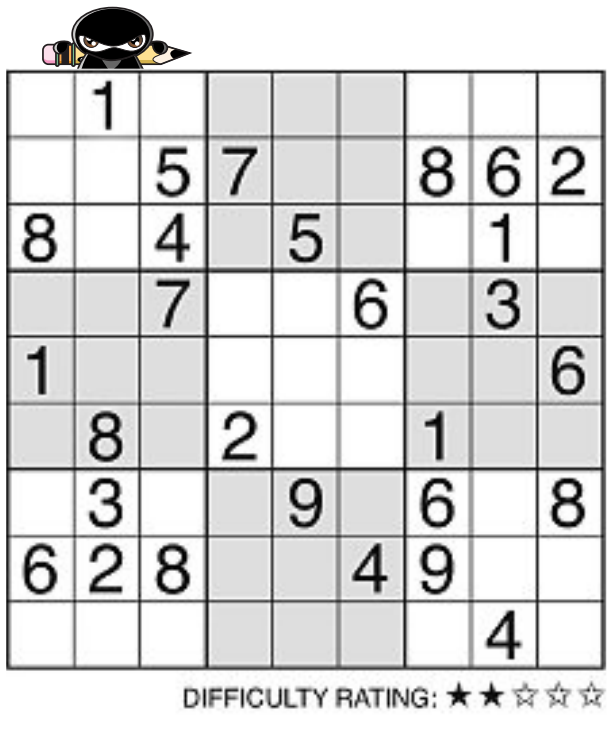
Tom Cruise received his first Oscar nomination for this Oliver Stone-directed adaptation of Ron Kovic's memoirs, and Stone picked up his second Oscar for best director. Universal is offering it under its centennial-celebration line in a Blu-ray/DVD/digital combo.
Extras: Commentary with Oliver Stone, featurettes such as "Backstory: Born on the Fourth of July," The '80s and Academy Award Winners.



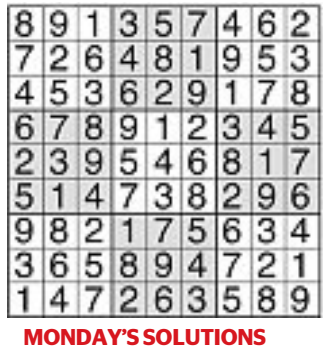
Barbarella

This bizarre 1968 fantasy starring Jane Fonda is finally out on Blu-ray. Directed by her then-husband Roger Vadim, "Barbarella" is hardly a high-water mark for Fonda in acting terms but it still has a what-was-she-thinking fascination. A true sci-fi space romp.
—RICH HELDENFELS, AKRON BEACON JOURNAL

puzzles



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

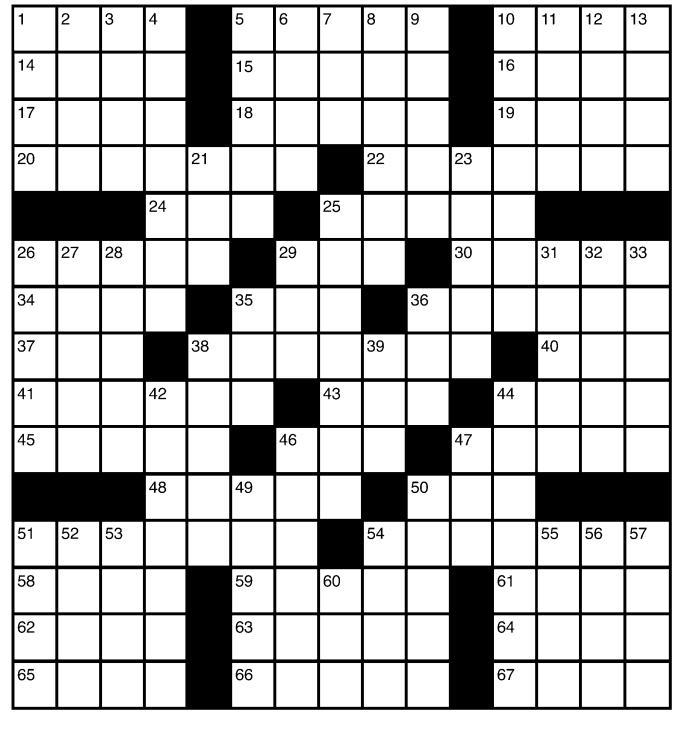


MONDAY'S SOLUTIONS



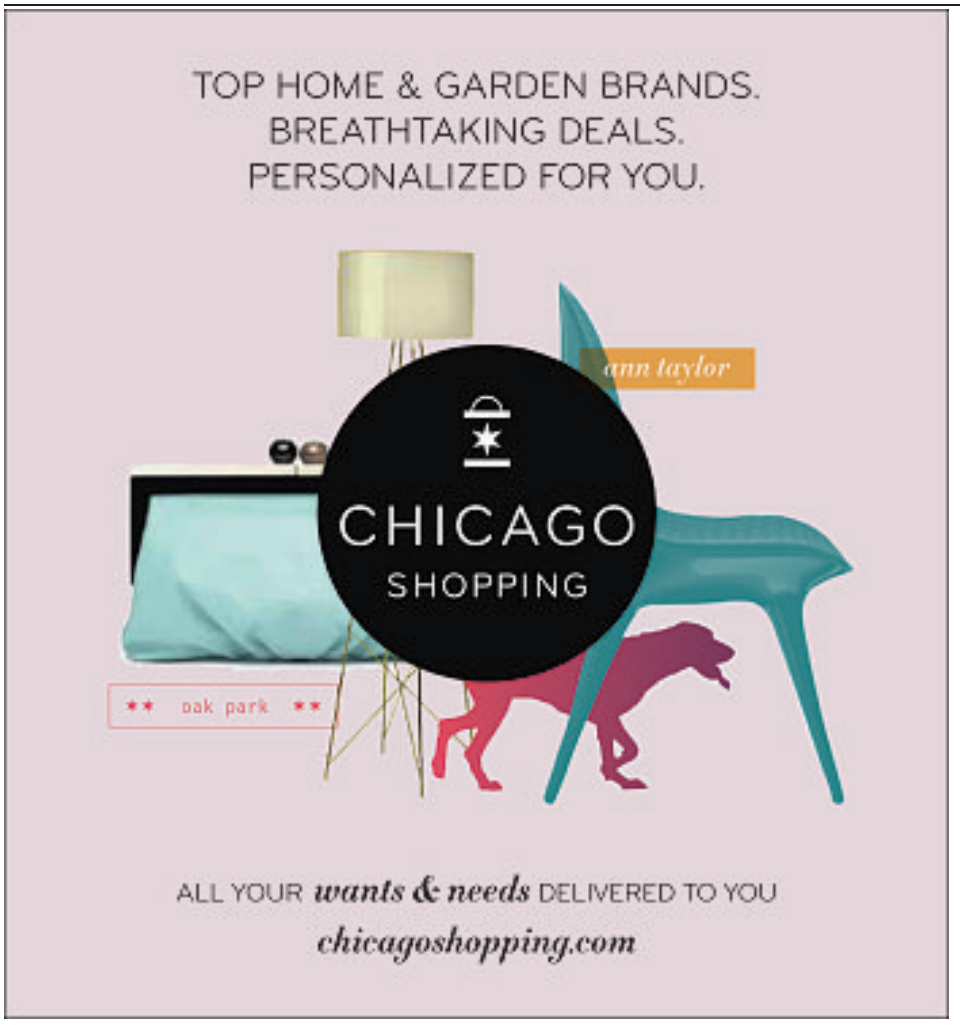
TODAY IN THE YEAR ...

1986: The torch was relighted atop the renovated Statue of Liberty.
2003: The U.S. placed a $25 million bounty on Saddam Hussein.
2009: Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin, the 2008 Republican vice presidential candidate, abruptly announced she would step down as governor more than year before the end of her term.



ACROSS
1 Out of _; misbehaving
5 Picture cards
10 Study at the 11th hour
14 Applies frosting
15 Watch for
16 Vagabond
17 Knox or Worth
18 Stupid
19 Misfortunes
20 Lasts
22 Viral disease of childhood
24 Lend a hand to
25 Brink; threshold
26 Brief ad, as on a book jacket
29 SST or 747
30 Remembered Texas mission
34 Actress Tomlin
35 Male child
36 Catholic Mass book
37 Pretense
38 Senior _; oldster
40 Male pronoun
41 Vital records recordings
43 _ up; arrange
44 Game like lotto
45 Fixed gaze
46 Enemy
47 Digs for ore
48 Composer _ Copland
50 Noise
51 Mediator
54 Is antsy
58 Early 4x4 off-road SUV
59 Story by Aesop
61 _ in on ; visit
62 Inserts
63 Heron
64 Meanie
65 Stood up
66 Peruses
67 Frame of mind

DOWN
1 _ jacket; buoyant vest
2 Computer image
3 Bookish fellow
4 Arm of the sea
5 Burned-out
6 Fills with wonderment
7 Is able to
8 Fate
9 Take the helm
10 Sculpting tools
11 Bread tray item
12 Competent
13 Green velvety growth
21 Curved bone
23 Time and _; repeatedly
25 Deer meat
26 Lets cat out of the bag
27 Allowed by law
28 Extreme
29 _ down; note
31 Pale looking
32 "The Pine Tree State"
33 Actor Edward James _
35 Lisa, to Bart Simpson
36 Encountered
38 Be dishonest
39 26th letter
42 Walk about
44 Realm
46 Hunt for food
47 Prefix for night or section
49 _ to; cite
50 Counts calories
51 Slightly open
52 Make over
53 Cots and cribs
54 Ran off
55 Therefore
56 Spanish bull
57 Drove too fast
60 Undergarment





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Jennifer Hudson
Luke James

th july 12
5:30pm



Death Cab For Cutie
Calexico
Presented by
93 XRT
CHICAGO'S FINEST ROCK

fr july 13
5:30pm





Michael Franti & Spearhead
Fitz & The Tantrums

sa july 14
5:30pm



Chaka Khan
Raphael Saadiq
Presented by
V103

SU july 15
3:30pm



Dierks Bentley
Lindi Ortega
Presented by
BUD LIGHT

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WHAT HAPPENED?!

It was a crazy week in the celebrisphere, no?

By Dana Moran | REDEYE

There are weeks when we'd swear every celeb is on his or her best behavior. (Translation: Boring.) This was not one of those times: Our eyes practically turned into spinnyballs over the amount of ridiculous that went down over the past few days. Now that the storm seems to finally have passed, we're taking stock of the recent craziness on our patented Ridiculous Meter. Don't try this at home. DAMORAN@TRIBUNE.COM | @REDEYEDANA

MOST RIDICULOUS-O-METER LEAST



ADELE IS PREGNANT

Now she really does have it all. We had just-quite-but-not-really revived ourselves after hearing the TomKat news when BLAM! Adele got knocked up by some old dude! OK, he's 36 and she's 24. BUT STILL. Adele will forever be 21 in our minds. That kid is going to get some amazing lullabyes though.

LINDSAY LOHAN'S GOT A GUN

If you thought LiLo's photos as Marilyn Monroe were wild, you'll be more than a little taken aback by her latest snaps. Photographer Terry Richardson, who recently shot lots of video of Kate Upton in a bikini, released photos on his website of Lindsay holding a revolver to her head and in her mouth. At least we didn't have to see her do the Cat Daddy.



TOM CRUISE AND KATIE HOLMES SPLIT

We may have been so obsessed with this sick phenomenon in college that a) we owned a T-shirt that said "Run Katie Run" and b) our friend got us a framed photo of the couple as a hospital pick-me-up. So when news of their split broke Friday, we were DEVASTATED, and by that we mean glad she finally found the escape hatch. Remember their first date, when he lured her onto his plane for sushi and then brainwashed her? Pure magic.



LADIES LOVE 'MAGIC MIKE'

Though it wasn't the all-out booty-and-cheese-fest they'd been expecting, the women came out in support of Channing Tatum's tush. They made up 73 percent of the film's audience over the weekend, helping lead it to a $39.2 million draw. We had actually estimated somewhere closer to 92 percent, so we're a little baffled by this one.



LAURYN HILL TAX EVASION

The Fugees superstar is still about "that thing" ... if by "that thing," we mean not paying taxes. The Grammy winner plead guilty Friday to not paying federal taxes on more than $1.5 million of income, a crime that could land her up to three years in prison. Guess we won't get our hopes up about a new album anytime soon.



KIM KARDASHIAN AND KANYE WEST'S MATCHY-MATCHY

No surprise: The rapper picked up best group at the BET Awards with Jay-Z for The Throne's effort. What may have been even less shocking Sunday night was the fact that 'Ye and lady-squeeze Kim Kardashian showed up in almost-matching outfits. You know he's pissed she picked out something in cream instead of white.

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Alec Baldwin
GETTY IMAGES

Nasty boy

Is it just us, or is Alec Baldwin treading dangerously near Charlie Sheen-depth crazy waters? In an interview with Vanity Fair, the volatile "30 Rock" star talked about his anger toward TMZ producer Harvey Levin for posting a harsh voice mail Baldwin famously left his daughter. "I wanted to stick a knife in him and gut him and kill him and I wanted him to die breathing his last breath looking into my eyes," Baldwin said. OK, then.

THE DIGIT

192


Justin Bieber
GETTY IMAGES

That's how many students were in Justin Bieber's graduating class at St. Michael Catholic Secondary School in Stratford, Ontario, **rollingstone.com** reports. The Bieb did not attend Thursday's commencement ceremony.

HOT DATE

July 9

Who wants to be a millionaire? No, seriously—auditions for "Who Wants to be a Millionaire" come to Rivers Casino Des Plaines on Monday. Visit **millionairetv.com** for all the deets.



"My last album that's coming out in two days. ... I just want to thank all my fans. It's dedicated to y'all." —**Chris Brown**, accepting the award for best male R&B singer at Sunday's BET Awards. Well, it's not really his *last* album. Brown's reps clarified for **ew.com**. It's just his most recent.

Chris Brown at the 2012 BET Awards
GETTY IMAGES



Shows must go on

HBO feels **"The Newsroom"** is generating enough good news to keep going. The cable network announced Monday it will pick up its new drama, which stars Jeff Daniels, for a second season. HBO also renewed vampire drama "True Blood" for a sixth season.



TomKat aftershock

The appetite for Tom Cruise-Katie Holmes breakup news remains high. "Katie breaks free: ENOUGH" trumpets the cover of the new issue of Us Weekly magazine, on newsstands this week. People magazine has: "Why Katie left Tom: Her dad's secret plan." Meanwhile, Holmes kept busy Monday, taping a guest-judge spot on "Project Runway."

Exiting the band

Christopher Owens is done with Girls, the acclaimed indie rock duo he fronted until now. "This may come as a surprise to many ... I am leaving Girls," Owens posted Monday on Twitter. "My reasons at this time are personal. I need to do this in order to progress."


Christopher Owens
GETTY IMAGES

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